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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR 25 January 1954

SUBJECT Semenov and the CDU

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reported that Fuchs (ind), chief of the "Union" news service, and Willi Leisner, in charge of church affairs on the national executive board of the CDU, were again working at the central CDU headquarters on Jaegerstrasse, Berlin. The two had been arrested in connection with the Dertinger affair. They stated that Dertinger had reproached the Soviet officers interrogating him with listening only to biased SED reports and therefore being completely uninformed as to the real mood of the East German population. Thereupon, the beginning of his trial was postponed and those arrested with Dertinger and Hamann were asked to report the truth. Leisner and Fuchs told [REDACTED] they had furnished unbiased reports and that Otto Nuschke and other prominent members of his party had also been encouraged to furnish true reports on the situation in East Germany. Semenov, who studied all this material very carefully, reproached Nuschke with having been cowed by the SED. He allegedly asked him to show more independence and backbone in the future. Semenov stated that he would protect any bourgeois politician who told the truth, because such a man was a better friend of the USSR than the reckless gamblers of the SED Central Committee.

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